


A BRIEF REPORT.

From Rev. P. K. Masiza, Native Clergyman in the Diocese of St. John's, Kaffraria.

(From S.P.G. Mission Field.)

 NE may ask why a brief, and not a full report? The numerous out-stations in the parish I have to visit every month may make time fail me to give a full report. I have to meet all the following classes at each station: (1) the new converts or seekers, (2) those who are admitted as catechumens to be prepared for baptism, (3) those who are to be prepared to be confirmed, (4) those who are to be admitted into Holy Communion after they have been confirmed, (5) penitents, also (6) to meet individually every communicant each quarter, before Holy Communion, beside cases which come before me to settle. This is my work at each station, and to visit also some heathens' kraals, or else when I am in a station sometimes a heathen man comes to me, for information about religion, and asking me to baptize his children, whose mothers are already Christians. This I do with a written agreement. If he misled the child again to heathenism, I told him and wrote on the paper, that I shall appeal with this paper, if he shall break any rule written on the paper. And I made them to sign their names, with witness below.

I am thankful to say all the heathen children I have baptised under this condition, their fathers have hitherto kept faithful their word. Epiphany, I am glad to say, I spent at Ngon-yama Mission, attended by a good majority of heathen people. I send a word round in that location, I will be glad to see all the heathens at service. They have turned out well. I alluded in the sermon how God appeared to the Magicians or Philosophers in the East at the birth of Christ. And how he says in the Gospel of St. John: "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold, them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice." Then I said, "My friends, Christ did mean you who are still far from the way of peace, He wishes you to come to be in one fold, under one Shepherd, as He is the only true Shepherd of His fold; why do you hesitate to come, or to believe in Christ?" I am glad to say three red heathen women, on the day of Epiphany, in the morning service did give themselves up as converts. The following Sunday twenty were converted. Up to the present time we have fifty new converts at Ngonyama, not admitted yet as catechumens. All over my mission stations in Fingoeland we have a good many new converts not admitted yet. I am not in a hurry admitting new converts into catechumen. I wish them to be taught well the elementary Christian knowledge. Neither am I in hurry in baptizing

them, nor in bringing them forward to be confirmed, nor admitting them soon into Holy Communion. Especially young men and young girls who came out from heathenism. Hitherto things seem going on satisfactory. I have to visit every month the following Mission stations in Fingoeland: (1) Ngolose, (2) Xolobe, (3) Ekuze, (4) Caba, (5) Kwamfula, (6) Mbulukweza, (7) Upper Mbulu, (8) Upper Gutsa, (9) Lower Gutsa, (10) Kwebulana, (11) Hange, (12) Nconcolora, (13) Emxobozweni, (14) Emhletyeni, (15) Tsojana, (16) Nguhles, and (17) Ngonyama, and in Tembuland, (18) Ncaca. At all these missions I have to meet the classes mentioned above, and administer the Holy Sacrament to each every month, and be at home for the first Sunday in the month for Native and English services, and start again early on Monday Morning. This I have to do the year round. My home is on my horse's back. To go through calm and boisterous weather. Early in February his lordship the Bishop visited us, and opened two chapels, one at Xolobe, the other at Mbulukweza, and confirmed at two places, at the Upper Mbulu and Hange. In Fingoeland, where I labor, we have six chapels, brick buildings with iron roof, one stone building with iron roof, one sod building with iron roof one brick building with a thatch roof, one iron building in whole at Upper Mbulu, one wattle and daub with a thatch roof, seven round huts. I am trying with all my effort at these missions also, telling the people to put up square buildings. I am glad to say, one place has already commenced a stone building.

Ash Wednesday I spent at the Hange with a fair congregation. The Holy Week also at the Hange. On Palm Sunday I celebrated for 263 communicants without an assistant. The services of the day were splendid, from what the people say. On Monday morning I had to return to St. Mark's for Holy Communion. Tuesday morning after celebration I had to return again to Fingoeland. Since the Arch-deacon left in March on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land I had an uphill work, to go forward and backward, to be in Fingoeland and at St. Mark's. On Holy Thursday evening I celebrated for 436 communicants, assisted by a deacon, Mr. Makonxa. And the services of the day were effective. Good Friday is a day which speaks of itself, with its services. Especially the mid-day service reminded me of the service I attended at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, in 1896, which I will never forget in my life, as well as the city and its inhabitants. On Easter Eve I baptized between sixty and seventy adults. Early on Easter Day, at daybreak, we walked down to our graveyard and had a short service, reminding us of the Resurrection of our Redeemer, which affected many people.